

Greenway Committee Meeting Summary

Sept. 21, 2021

Present: Trish Garrigan, Brian Goldberg, Sherry Anders, Marie Elwin, Betsy Colburn-Mirkovic

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 6:38pm.
2. **Announcements** – Sherry read the usual announcements.
3. **Land Management/Acquisition**
 - a. GAD/Dupre – no update
 - b. Squannacook River Parcels (103-B-3 and 103-C-3) – Ward Baxter has documents to share with us on these
 - c. Great Rd/2A tax takings- no update
 - d. Former Poirier Property
 - e. Walker Rd. tax title foreclosure – some interest by Oxbow, taxes due
 - f. Farrar Property, 22 acres Little Turnpike – up for sale, next to Morse, high priority for town and initially part of Forest Legacy, but no longer, maybe in Phase 2 of Forest Legacy if it doesn't sell, asking \$99.9K but there is no access. Next to 0 Going Rd – owned by town, Sherry to contact Janet and Mike, also next to Lunenberg, any Land Trust interest?

Article 97 deed review – still need to locate a few, then on to Mike Fleming to get to Town Counsel.
4. **Fredonian Nature Center** – ADA Implementation Project Update – Town Administrator offered to submit a grant for the ADA project at Fredonian. Dave Bortell is getting quotes from contractors. Guthrie quotes for \$37K, might have gravel. Phoenix Park also wants to help. Need to submit NOI (Notice of Intent) to Conservation Commission. Project might be done next summer. Other ideas for the park include picnic tables, bat boxes- maybe an Eagle Scout project, native plant garden. Possibly get more ideas from the community, a “Friends of Fredonian” group? Sherry to talk with Tamara. A clean-up day with donated pizza?
5. **Forest Legacy** – Nashua River Watershed Association reached out, they need a letter of support from Greenway and the Board of Selectmen. Trish made a motion to send a letter, seconded by Betsy, passed unanimously. Sherry will follow up.
6. **Mass Wildlife Barrens Restoration Project** – Mass Wildlife is working on an FAQ, public site walk. Need to do a better job of telling the public what they are doing and making the case for this type of restoration in this place. There are concerns about it and we need to know more about what they are doing and why before we take an official position on it. See what Al Futterman from NRWA is learning, as he has a lot of reservations and questions about the project, which abuts Pumpkin Brook.
7. **Shirley Trails** - Conservation Commission will discuss Trails document at their next meeting. Dave Bortell is looking for ideas about any more signs that might be needed. A sign was put up at the intersection of Lyons, Morse, and Longley and at Old Town Line property. Warner property – waiting to hear from Patrick Warner, there are some hazards on the property and there are existing trails. It

was noted that the town should assess if a property has hazards on it before taking it as a donation.

- 8. Public Engagement** – Newsletter will come out in about a month, maybe highlight a trail in each newsletter. Sherry was interviewed for an article in the Ayer-Shirley Tracker. GW display at Shirley Fest was a success. Brian and Trish heard lots of stories, talked to interested landowners, made a link to the Cub Scouts, got over 25 names signed up to get the GW Newsletter, gave out trails information and Jamie Eldridge came for a visit. Should we reconsider some kind of Facebook presence?
- 9. OSRP Update** – Brian reported they had a good meeting last night, they clarified the purpose, shared ideas and identified who to work with. He will chair the committee and they are still getting organized. Brian noted Grotontrails.org as a good online interactive map resource for trails.
- 10. 5/18 Discussion Follow up** – There is a group in town pursuing the CPA, a possible need to prioritize chapter 61 land in town, look at NRWA Stewardship plan. Maybe talk to Mark Archambault Ayer Planner. Have a follow up forum on a focused topic? Maybe CPA? Send comments in on Housing Production Plan - status? Sent back to Montachusett? Sherry to check with Sarah.
- 11. Committee Member Comments** – Brian noted a comment from Shirley Fest that a landowner with land near or at Hunting Hill had left land to the town, (no hunting in deed) but then town transferred(?) to the state and they do allow hunting on it. How can we avoid this type of thing, it was not what the landowner wanted.
- 12. Public Comments** – none
- 13. Approval of Minutes** – need to address this and get caught up
May 4, 2021, May 18, 2021, July 20, 2021, June 15, 2021 (BC) August 19, 2021 (SA)
- 14. Adjourned at 8:25.**